



RICKY HOLDEN EAST ON A DANCE TEACHING TOUR

Rickey Holden, American square dance caller known internationally as the "Texas Whirlwind", begins on Nov. 1, 1957, a 'round the world tour to countries in the Far East, Middle East and Europe. Purpose of the trip is to exchange information and experience in square and folk dancing in particular, as well as recreation and leisure-time activities in general.

Specific objectives are to see folk dances of many countries in their native habitat, to exchange authentic dances with music which may have special interest to peoples of other countries, to meet folk dance and music people for exchange of dances and ideas, and to learn what role folk and square dancing plays as a social resource for living and world understanding in the countries visited.

The itinerary begins in Japan where for 40 days and 40 nights, in a number of cities throughout the country, Rickey will offer workshop and institute session on specific folk dance material, as well as leadership training. Also he will be giving lectures on comparative folk dance and the sociological implications of dancing in various countries. In addition to the dance activity Rickey plans to pursue his interests in other folk recreations, and particularly hopes to learn more about ancient games such as "Go", that Oriental battle which experts consider five times harder than chess and national championships of which, in Japan, are almost as popular as World Series baseball here.

From Japan Rickey goes to Taiwan (Formosa) for three weeks and thence around the world, probably including most of the following: Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, Egypt, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaya, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Syria, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam. On the way back he'll stop briefly in Austria, Belgium, England, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Scotland and Switzerland.

For the ten past years Rickey Holden has been calling for square dances and festivals, conducting workshops & summer institutes and giving courses to callers and leaders throughout the United States and Canada. In February and

March, 1957, he completed a 12,000-mile tour through 12 Caribbean, South and Central American countries, working with dancers in Spanish and French as well as in English.

Rickey is one of the very few professional callers in this country equally at home in the folk dance field. Many U. S. square dance people feel an important schism must exist to separate the "un-American" folk dances from the "purely native" squares and rounds. A world tour of this sort, however, could only be undertaken by someone who, like Rickey, approaches folk and square dancing with equal competence, who recognizes that all folk peoples dance for the pleasure of dancing, and who can rejoice with them in their pleasure.

Holden has recorded his calls on both, Folkraft and MacGregor labels, is author of a complete study of contra dances and of the only book dealing with the art and science of calling square dances; and he has choreographed and called for many stage presentations including a stint at the Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Anyone interested in this project of world understanding through folkways is invited to write direct to: Rickey Holden, 2117 Meadow Lane, Arden, Wilmington 3, Delaware, U. S. A.

SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL SQUARE CONVENTION

Reports from many well qualified persons attending the convention indicate that the majority of activities ran very smoothly and that the many clinics, panels and forums were well-attended and that those attending were well pleased with the results of these activities.

Firal figures show that total registration was 8,457, with a composite attendance of 18,452 for the 3-days session. Unusual weather conditions were a factor in holding down attendance on the final two days. The heaviest rainfall in St. Louis history for a 12-hour period began early Friday evening, the city getting 9-inches and one of the suburbs 13-inches. Many delegates were caught downtown and were delayed in getting back to the auditorium but they carried on by dancing in the hotels until a break in the downpour. Some got a little wet, but not their spirits and they were sports about the whole thing.

All main highways into St. Louis from the east, south and west were under water Saturday and doubtless many were unable to drive in to attend closing sessions. We are truly sorry that some had to miss it as we had room for lots more dancers in the huge auditorium.

We thank all of you who attended and who helped in putting this Convention over with special gratitude to those who took part in the various workshops, clinics, meetings, exhibitions and in calling on the program.

A. S. Lowell
General Chairman

THE DANCE OF LIETUVA

We cannot urge too strongly that you secure a copy of this book for your folk library. The book contains fifty-five dances and various versions.

I. Singing circles and games for pre-school and kindergarten, suitable for young and adults as well with songs in Lithuanian and English text.

II. Pure and old Lithuanian folk dances for adult groups. Among them the beloved Jonkelis, Mikita, and Blezdingėlė, Malūnėlis (the Mill), and the ever popular Goat Dance, Oželis.

III. Popular Lithuanian and Lithuanianized Ballroom Dances.

IV. An article on costumes. An historic sketch on Lithuania, many pictures, drawings, diagrams and informative data.

The price — \$5.00

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Horrors of errors: Due to the rush-rush-rush on the last issue many mistakes happened. On pages two & three the descriptions underneath the pictures were switched around. Credit was not given to Henry Bloom for his pictures on the Statewide festival (sorry). Wrong typeset line was pulled out for "correction" and along with it the fact that Frances Andrade was the winner of the two year subscription to VILTIS at the VILTIS anniversary party. Mea Maxima Culpa!

Another "correction" is regarding the statement that Cathy Cary was marrying a "non-folk dancer". Well, it is not so, for during his week in Idyllwild he not only danced and learned to love folk dancing, but he was a star of a production! Paul De Joseph was "married off" Lithuanian style to Cathy, sang Lithuanian songs beautifully and danced at his "own wedding". . . Dan Murton, handsome son of George and Adriene, active in the Federational dance movement, was "called to arms" with the Air Force. After a 13 week training period in Cheyenne, Wyo. he is scheduled for France. Good luck, Dana.

COMPLAINT DEPT. Too many of our readers are marrying each other, which in itself is fine, but... we lose that way a customer. To remedy that each marrying couple, when combining two subscriptions into one, will have to get a new reader as a replacement, or else, you can't get married. OK? . . . Barbara Mandell of New Platz, N. Y. was on a European tour attending festivals and found them "inspiring, educational, heart warming and thought provoking experiences AS IS VILTIS". Thanks for the kind words. . . Stan and Lois Leszynski of Seattle, Wash., traveled through 41 countries, spending six weeks in Yugoslavia. He, too, was thrilled with the "remarkable experiences."

Arnold Elverum from St. Paul, Minn. went to Hell and had a hell of good time. But, wrote he, it was cold as hell in Hell. Which proves every one wrong. Hell, which means "bright" in the Scandinavian languages, German & Yiddish, is a name of a town in Northern Norway. Arnold practiced folk dances and participated in festivals in Sverresborg, Trondheim and Tynseth.

BAKERSFIELD has a new folk dance club, Kerin Kontinentals, meeting each Wednesday and doing mighty well. The Linscotts from Bakersfield took a flying trip to Oaxaca and Guadalajara, Mexico... Circle Eight and the Southern Fed. chose James Thurber and Polly Meachem as their Jr. Scholarship winners to Stockton Folk Dance Camp... Pat Mattina, former Buffalonian and a Los Angelone for the past two years, was sent to Germany on a school teaching assignment.

Mrs. Jean Seely is the lucky winner of a subscription for VILTIS, presented by the Long Beach Folk Dance Co-Operative CHICAGO FOLK DANCE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL held their camp at Hastings, Ill., during Sept. 13-15 which turned out to be mighty successful. . . The BUFFALO FOLK DANCERS' CAMP at Forty Acres was successful and enjoyable with unusual "fauna and flora" of "Cup trees and Dutch Distelfink birds" (Grace Wolff Vas Dere, Ja Shoor!). Grace, John Person and Lew Mahony also published for the camp the gossip "Distel-Fink Doodles". The club meets regularly at the Moose Hall, 910 Main, Buffalo. All are welcome.

ACCIDENTS: Richard Bennet broke a number of bones while pole vaulting with his young'uns at his home in Carmel, Calif. . . Nancy DeMarco suffered back injuries when a drunken driver plowed into her car when she stopped for a red light in Cleveland. . . Don "Red" Thompson

suffered a fractured scull in an auto accident. But all recovered nicely and are active at their favorite pastime, folk dancing. Stay well Y'all!

Madelynne Greene finally gave up her old haunts on Kearney street and moved 1521 Stockton, about a block away from Chang's, in San Francisco. We wish you good luck and happy dancing in your new headquarters..

Michael Cartier of Longueuil, Canada, visited various parts of Russia and other Iron Curtain countries after participating in the Moscow Youth Festival. He is bubbling with many happy impressions... We are grieved to learn about two severe strokes which struck two active people; Mr. Kazys Gugis of Chicago, a brilliant lawyer, and Mr. John Yokubynas of Toronto, bot active in Lithuanian circles. Mr. Gugis is totally helpless due to a complete paralysis, while Mr. Yokubynas, fortunately, was able to recover sufficiently to be able to walk about the house. May God's healing power be with both of you.

Pierre Bastien, Lea and Kurt Markstein and two other Canadian Frenchies spent their summer in Mexico City learning the dances and the language, and like all other typical tourists, buying out Mexico to bring back souvenirs to Canada. The Canadians participated in two fiestas (Aug. 1 & Aug. 8) demonstrating creditably their newly learned dances. The Marksteins moved for a year to Montreal where Kurt will continue attending the University while Pierre went back to Toronto where he plans to organize a group who will specialize in the Latin American dances.

• VILTIS DANCERS •

A number of people have remarked that the VILTIS DANCERS attract the finest youth. Looking back at the four years of VILTIS Dancers' history I decided that "everybody" is right. The caliber of the kids within the group is "way above" average in intellect, ability and friendliness. All ex VILTIS made a name for themselves in many diverse fields and we are proud of every blessed one of them. A bunch of us were very proud last week of Larry Barr, another VILTIS DANCER who played "Dante", a lead male part in Mary Lasswell's rip-roaring comedy "SUDS IN YOUR EYE". He is a tall, well built and handsome lad and made a wonderful appearance on the stage and his acting was absolutely excellent. His occasional shy smile, the natural voice inflection properly done, demonstrated great possibilities for this 20 year old youngster. The whole play was a real good balm to those beset with daily care. "Mrs. Feeley" was a whiz, so were her other two cronies, Mrs. Tinkham and Mrs. Rasmussen. Chinaboy and "Kate Logan" were the others who did a very creditable job.

Robbie Miller, another very talented youth of various art phases, was shipped overseas for the summer where he met up with Ensign Jim Gordon, also a VILTIS dancer who has been our "goat". Robbie will soon be a proud papa of a third young'n. The Millers are Santa Barbarans. Robbie returned to San Diego after a three year absence on the last day of the Statewide festival and the first "welcoming" job he received was registering of visitors. The Millers are proud parents of two of the most beautiful children in the world!

Roy Hinton, who now teaches ball room dancing at Arthur Murray's of San Francisco, won a trip to Mexico and was also chosen as "The Teacher of the Month" . . . Jack Mona, one of the original VILTIS dancers now also in San Francisco, came to Stockton unprepared to be "married" Lithuanian style for the folk dance program, but proved to be an excellent groom even if unrehearsed. He also did mighty well in Lenciugėlis and with Leroy Gregg in the Goat dance, which proves, once a goat always a goat.